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MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY

MOREHEAD, KENTUCKY

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LIFE & ARTS



Vegans say healthy diet also saves the planet. They do not eat or use any animal products.

page 4

SPORTS



MSU softball beats Ball State Tuesday to extend its winning streak to 11 games

page 5

MORE



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Students and parents gather Saturday during one of MSU's SOAR sessions in the Adron Doran University Center. A possible increase in enrollment in the fall could help offset state budget cuts.

Carlo Angerer / The Trail Blazer

Tuition value attracts more students to MSU

Registration numbers up from same time last year; Andrews says higher fall enrollment could help offset some budget reductions

CARLO ANGERER — EDITOR

Future MSU students and their parents gathered Friday and Saturday for SOAR sessions on campus. They signed up for classes, met with financial aid and housing officials, and received help concerning other matters pertinent to their start of college in the fall. An increase in the number of students attending the first SOAR sessions indicates a possible enrollment increase in the fall.

On Friday and Saturday 654 students came to MSU, 76 more than during last year's first two SOAR sessions.

"We were excited; we were very excited," Laura Pace, first year program and retention director, said. "If those numbers continue into the fall, we expect to be up in enrollment."

Three more SOAR sessions are planned for June and July and the registration numbers for these sessions also are up. Thirty-one more students are registered for the sessions compared to the same time last year.

The top three programs chosen by incoming students so far were biology, nursing and music, Pace said.

Pace said the university has not changed its marketing approach, but added the success of the men's basketball team in the OVC tournament got MSU extra publicity.

MSU also offers lower tuition than similar institutions around the state and region and Pace said she thinks that could have im-

proved students' choices.

"Students and parents are shopping around more than before," she said.

Janet Mack of Louisville and her daughter Miracle are an example of those comparing the value of other institutions with MSU. Mack said the family looked at the University of Louisville, Bellarmine University and Morehead State. In the end, they chose MSU for the nursing program, to get away

from the city and because they expect a better value.

"I think we'll get the same quality for less money," Mack said. "The out-of-pocket cost is a lot lower."

Lisa Copley of Louisville, said the family chose MSU for her son Craig Walker because it is close to home, not very big, and cheaper than the other schools they had considered, which included the University of Kentucky, Marshall University and Kentucky Christian University.

MSU Financial Aid Director Donna King said during her time advising students at the recent SOAR sessions, she got the impression

SEE STUDENTS — page 2



Carlo Angerer / The Trail Blazer

Administrators say students came well prepared for registration on Saturday.

Chief diversity officer quits

CARLO ANGERER — EDITOR

Harold Portas, recently hired chief diversity officer at Morehead State University, returned to his home state of California Friday. MSU President Wayne Andrews said.

Portas began his position on April 1.

According to an MSU press release, Portas said in his resignation letter to Andrews, he left the University because of personal matters, which required his immediate attention in California.

Andrews said he met with Portas Friday morning and Portas resigned due to a personal family situation. He said Portas left that day.

He said there is no shortfall for a new candidate, so the search committee will come together to discuss options.

"We might have to do a talent hunt and do a search waiver," Andrews said.

The position of chief diversity officer was created in light of MSU failing equal opportunity goals set forth by the Council on Postsecondary Education.

Portas had worked previously as an education consultant, migrant program education program manager and minority recruiter in California, according to a previous MSU press release.

Alarms remain unheard

KATE JENNINGS — STAFF WRITER

On the first Monday of every month, MSU police test the campus audible alert system. As the noon hour rolls around, students wait for a class disruption that doesn't come. The sirens blare outside, but classrooms remain quiet because the alert system cannot be heard in the buildings.

MSU Police Captain James Frazier said the university is aware of the problem.

"If you're outside you can hear them but when you're inside you have difficulties. You may hear the siren but not the words," Frazier said.

Frazier said the speakers are high powered and provide omnidirectional voice and siren warnings that can be controlled remotely using any phone.

Dean of Students Kevin Koett said the system is designed and set up to be used as an on-door alert system.

SEE ALARMS — page 2

Mongiardo optimistic about Ky. healthcare

CARLO ANGERER — EDITOR

LI Gov. Daniel Mongiardo had an optimistic message for health care professionals and educators on Monday at the Morehead Conference. Center when he talked about reforming Kentucky's healthcare system.

During the "Transforming the American Healthcare System" conference hosted by Morehead State University, St. Claire Regional Medical Center and UK Healthcare, Mongiardo said the Commonwealth's ground work on introducing electronic records into healthcare could help nationwide to bring reform to healthcare, which currently shows symptoms of being a broken system.

An electronic system that would give doctors, insurers and patients easier access to medical records currently exists only in theory, Mongiardo believes Kentucky could become the

"national laboratory" to prove that the system works.

The federal stimulus plan could jump start the statewide system.

"We have not been planning on any stimulus money and all of a sudden comes President Barack Obama," he said.

He said up to \$3 billion for research in the healthcare field has been included in the stimulus bill. Other states also are competing for money, but Mongiardo believes because of Kentucky's previous work, it would come out on top.

"I'm betting Kentucky is going to be the one to do it," he said. "We are already three fourths around the track."

Earlier in the day, educators and healthcare professionals discussed other aspects of today's healthcare system and the possibilities for reform.

Robert Albert, dean of MSU's

SEE HEALTH — page 2



Carlo Angerer / The Trail Blazer

During Monday's forum at the Morehead Conference Center, Lt. Gov. Daniel Mongiardo said money from the federal stimulus plan could help reform Kentucky's healthcare system.

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Lt. Gov. Daniel Mongiardo addressed a healthcare forum on Monday.

HEALTH

continued from page 1

College of Business, said the discussions allowed participants to focus on different aspects of healthcare including cost, man-

agement and access.

One of the major issues in Eastern Kentucky is access to healthcare because many patients are either uninsured or underinsured, Albert said.

Morehead physician Dr. Ewell Scott said many of his patients don't have insurance. "Twenty-

five percent work for small business owners that cannot afford health insurance," he said.

Lt. Gov. Mongiardo said Kentucky could solve some of these problems by becoming the "national laboratory" for healthcare reform.

sion the students were better prepared than students in past years.

She said "They didn't have as many preliminary questions and everybody I asked had filed for their FAFSA." (Free Application For Student Aid)

King said she also talked to some incoming students' families where a parent had lost employment and in this case adjustments can be made to the federal aid application, which generally uses financial information from the previous year to determine aid levels.

King said she also encountered a higher quality of students based on ACT scores students reported to her.

"I was having a lot of 28s, 29s, 30s," she said. "I feel like we're bringing in a group with much higher ACTs. I was really impressed with the high caliber of students."

Jeffrey Liles, assistant vice president for enrollment services said, overall, applications were down after the university instituted a \$30 application fee for the first time this year.

He said, at the same time, the acceptance rate has risen.

"This allows us to work more efficiently with the resources we have," Liles said. Other cost-saving measures in enrollment and financial services include communicating with students through e-mail only starting in the fall semester.

MSU President Wayne Andrews said early indications about the number and quality of students are good and that he was "very much encouraged."

Andrews said planning is incomplete for the fall semester with a larger freshman class, and higher enrollment could help offset budget reductions.

He said this year's 2-percent state budget cut is likely to become permanent and an additional 2-percent budget reduction is possible.

The university will not make any cuts over the summer, but administrators will know where to make cuts if they have to in the fall, Andrews said.

ALARM

continued from page 1

Frazier said the audible alert system is used to supplement other campus alert systems.

Harry Gunn, director of risk and compliance, said every building on campus has a designated staff member trained to deal with emergency situations that might include fires, tornadoes, earthquakes, bomb threats, hostage situations and active shooters.

"I meet with the building managers once a year. I meet with them individually because each building is unique and has its own security issues," Gunn said.

Gunn said he and police chief Matt Sparks sit down with each building manager and discuss each situation and how to respond.

Another campus warning method uses the e2 Campus text message alert system, which Krett said is the most efficient way to get information to students.

"This is one system I strongly encourage everyone to sign up for," Krett said.

But e2 Campus isn't fool proof.

"In theory it could get to the point where cell towers are overloaded and text messages would not go out," Frazier said.

Frazier said fewer than 50 percent of MSU students are signed up to receive alerts, a number that is mirrored across the state and country.

Frazier said police and administrators try to get students to sign up for the system during SOAR sessions.

"We know, fact based, if an incident happens we will get information out on the e2 Campus system," Krett said.

Gunn said MSU is looking at other alert systems that will bring

the alarms inside the buildings with speakers in common areas, such as the lobbies, as well as a reverse 911 system that would send alarms through any phones equipped with a speakerphone system.

"Everyone I've talked to on this campus recognizes the need, but it's coming up with the funds," Frazier said.

Frazier said the current system cost \$32,000 to install. "If you look at the grand total of what we've spent on this system it's worth keeping it up," Frazier said.

Gunn said he is confident about the current systems in place at MSU.

"After Virginia Tech there's been a national awareness and more training," Gunn said.

THE TRAIL BLAZER

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EDITORIAL

SOAR sessions promise bright outlook

More than 600 future Eagles ascended Friday and Saturday onto the Morehead State University campus to participate in SOAR sessions, where they registered for classes and found out more about their soon-to-be college experience.

As they strolled the booths in the Adron Doran University Center searching for information about everything MSU, from financial aid to meal plans to extra-curricular activities, students and parents seemed to be beaming with excitement.

For each of those students, college could turn out to be the starting point for a great future. At the same time, each of those students could be part of a great future for MSU.

During these first weekend SOAR sessions, 76 more students visited campus than during last year's first SOAR sessions. Additionally, the registration numbers for the coming SOAR sessions are up.

These are not applicants or high school students taking a tour, these are all students who are enrolled and ready to start at MSU in the fall, committed to this university.

If the numbers hold, the new freshman class will be larger and those extra tuition dollars generated could offset some of the state budget cuts that have affected MSU greatly.

A larger freshman class will not be the sole solution to the budget problem that likely could grow. MSU President Wayne Andrews said he anticipates this academic year's 2-percent cut in state appropriations will become permanent and that MSU will face an additional 2-percent cut next academic year.

But the increased interest in MSU could help ease the economic problems. Increased numbers of students and parents are searching for a good value for their education dollars. It is important for MSU administrators to take advantage of that search and make the right decisions. They need to better market the value and the quality of educational opportunities MSU offers — especially in urban areas such as Lexington, Louisville and Cincinnati where MSU can compete well with more expensive schools.

Administrators also need to hold off on further cuts that would impact the quality of academic programs.

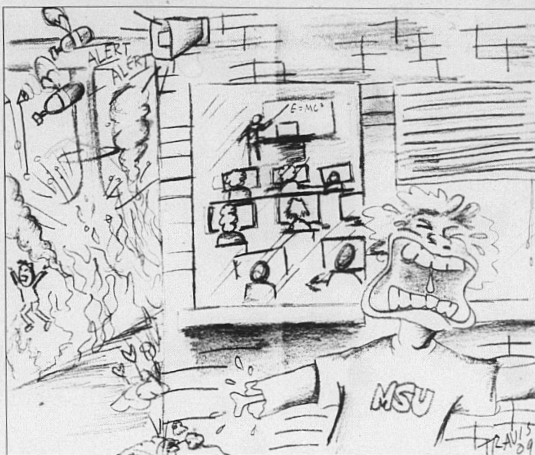
President Andrews said additional cuts would not be made until sometime during the fall semester. Even if there are further economic problems, President Andrews should stand by that statement.

The impact from additional budget cuts would impact more than the current students, faculty and academic programs. Future Eagles also would suffer the consequences of diminished educational opportunities.

Be part of the discussion

The Trail Blazer welcomes reader responses. Letters should be 400 words or less and signed. Addresses and telephone numbers should be included (for verification purposes only). Letters must be received in Room 317 Breckinridge Hall or emailed to editor@trailblazeronline.net by 4 p.m. Friday for the next week's publication.

The Trail Blazer reserves the right to edit letters for purposes of clarity, brevity and legal considerations.



One day you'll miss finals week



CARLO
ANGERER
—
Editor

Another week of classes, a week of finals and another academic year at Morehead State comes to an end.

As students work on their last class projects and cram for finals it often gets stressful.

Of course, just now starting to read those 24 chapters to be covered on a comprehensive final in science class might not be the

best idea. Neither is starting the first page of a 15-page research paper that is due by tomorrow at 8 a.m. But while cursing and slaving over those assignments, students should remember that one day they are going to miss all this.

That sounds like a comment from your grandmother or a line from a cheesy country song, which it actually is (Trace Adkins: "You're gonna miss this"), but there is some truth behind those words.

Walking down University Boulevard on a late spring night, passing congrega-

tions of students joking about their absurd professors, and faculty out doing their late-night jog or taking the dog for its final bathroom break, can take the sting out of college drudgery. It can almost make us appreciate the situation we are living. But once students graduate and have a steady job, the roaming around at night will be over.

Heading to the store to get a snack a few hours after midnight will not be possible if one has to take care of a crying baby.

Of course, once the semester is over and the pres-

sure is off, students can feel relief; they can feel success. For awhile.

It's instant gratification, something many jobs laboring in an office or at a cash register don't offer.

Even though the final weeks of every semester sometimes feel like hell, a few years down the road the memories will be fond.

Just like Trace Adkins sings, "You're gonna miss this; you're gonna miss this; you're gonna miss this; these days hadn't gone by so fast."

Pirate romance vs. pirate threat



KATE
JENNINGS
—
Staff Writer

Captain Richard Phillips spent five days adrift in a lifeboat off the African coast, held hostage by a band of Somali pirates. Phillip's dramatic escape attempts and the final rescue that brought Phillips home and left three pirates dead, held the nation captive.

The interest in the episode could be seen as an example

of today's fascination with pirates and piracy.

From the pirate museum in Salem, Mass., to the Pirates of the Caribbean movie franchise, the Ninja versus Pirates games, and Jolly Roger images on T-shirts, pirates are everywhere these days. But the romanticized view we have of pirates as delightful scallywags who roam the high seas searching for booty couldn't be further from the truth.

During the Golden Age of Piracy — from about 1650 to 1720 — thousands of pirates roamed the high seas ma-

rauding and killing at will. They were the people no one wanted to run into.

But Hollywood has distorted pirates into lovable rogues who drink rum and pass out on the beach — in a name, Captain Jack Sparrow. Sure he kills a few people and pulls a few double crosses, but for the most part he's a likeable guy.

I'm sure Captain Phillips would greatly disagree with this distorted view. Phillip's rescue is one of the success stories, but there are many stories that don't end that way. Poor countries that

don't have the money to pay millions in ransom or the means to reclaim their men by force watch their crews being held hostage for months on end or killed.

In the past, societies knew how to deal with pirates and were willing to take necessary action against them.

The recent rash of pirate attacks should serve as a warning sign. We need to come up with a real plan to deal with the threat of pirates and stop dealing with them on a case-by-case basis, and leaving poorer countries to fend for themselves.

CAMPUS COMMENT

Do you think MSU's audible alert system is effective?

The Trail Blazer asked students if they think MSU's audible alert system is effective. The university has spent \$32,000 on the system.



Jarod Lewis
Music Education
Freshman, Carter County

"When you're outside it is. When you're inside, you can't hear a thing."



Allen Eden
Engineering
Sophomore, Louisville

"I didn't even know we had one."



Chad Smith
Nursing
Sophomore, Cleveland

"No, it's kind of a boy-cried-wolf thing. People hear it and realize they're tests and blow it off."



Greg Nebbett
Music Education
Sophomore, Radcliff

"We have an audible alert system?"

THE TRAIL BLAZER

Students explain alternative diets

CLAYTON AKERS — STAFF WRITER

In a fast-paced world where it is so easy and convenient to fall in the "fast-food restaurant" way of eating, some MSU students have chosen an alternative diet that does not include a dressed up triple-pounder with a Coke to go.

Vegetarianism and veganism is the healthier lifestyle some students have chosen.

Some people think a vegetarian and a vegan are the same and though they do have similarities they have major differences.

According to the Web site vegans.com, a vegetarian is a person who does not eat or does not believe in eating meat, fish, fowl, or in some cases, any food derived from animals, as eggs or cheese, but subsists on vegetables, fruits, nuts, and grain.

In contrast, a vegan is a vegetarian who omits all animal products from the diet and does not wear fur, leather, wool, or use cosmetics or chemical products tested on animals.

MSU senior Stephanie Boardman has been a vegan for two years and works with PETA2 as a street teamer. She said she's passionate about informing people about the benefits of being a vegetarian or vegan.

"There are a lot of health benefits," Boardman said. "Vegetar-

ians and vegans are less likely to develop heart disease, cancer, gout, and tend to live longer." Just a few weeks ago, Boardman held a petition in the free speech area on campus to get more vegan and vegetarian foods offered at MSU.

Boardman said it is difficult for vegetarians and vegans to find options in Morehead.

"I won't be here next year because I am graduating, but it's something I hope to see the future students have the opportunity to have that kind of diet if they choose to," Boardman said.

The nearby Kroger store has a section with some varieties of vegan food, Boardman said.

"I can make sloppy joes, burritos, spaghetti," Boardman said. "Kroger's does have a small section where they have these packets to make chili, taco fillings, sour cream dairy free."

Morehead State student Katie Mooney has been a vegetarian for about four years and says this lifestyle has health benefits.

"It's a very healthy, alternative lifestyle," Mooney said. "Body is a lot healthier, don't get sick as often, and don't have all these preservatives build up in your body from eating meat."

Mooney, a Louisville native, said she was around vegetarianism a lot in high school because



Colin Baker / The Trail Blazer

there are a lot more options back home than here.

"It is difficult to find vegetarian food in fast-food restaurants, but there are usually some kind of options," Mooney said.

Mooney says she still gets good a portion of protein as a vegetarian.

"For the most part I eat salads,

soil products, and peanut butter for protein," Mooney said.

Along with the health benefits a vegetarian lifestyle can also help the environment.

According to gov.com, a 2006 United Nations report called the meat industry's influence on the environment "one

of the top two or three most sig-

nificant contributors to the most serious environmental problems, at every scale from local to global."

Boardman said some people have taken her attempts to inform others about vegetarianism the wrong way.

"Someone where I live was insulted and put a little toy pig

on my door with blood on it," Boardman said. "It made me feel bad because I'm not trying to throw my beliefs at any body. I'm offering education to people who would want to be vegetarians and vegans."



Carlo Angerer / The Trail Blazer

Theater students rehearse for the production of "Urinetown." The Tony award winning musical will start April 23 as part of MSU's Spring Celebration. It will be produced with help from the Department of Music.

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1:25 4:25 7:30 9:55

The Hannah Montana Movie
PG 92 mins
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Front Row from left: Dr. Janet McCoy, Shylah Dunn, Kristi Rindel, Suzanne McCoy, Jessica Smith, Amanda Lingo. Second Row: Chad Mullins, Eric Barker, Jennifer Pearson, Torie Stark, Amanda Romya. Third Row: Jeremy Richardson, Matthew Booley, Sophia Lewis, Perry Ryan, Bentley, Rebecca Hallon, Josh Mullins. Not Pictured: Amanda Moore, Jordan Shoemaker.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

- | | |
|---|---|
| April 23
President's Spring Concert on the Lawn, Adron Doran University Center Commons 4 - 6 p.m. | April 26
Poetry reading by Michelle Boisseau, Kentucky Folk Art Center 3 - 4 p.m. |
| April 23-24
Urinetown, Button Auditorium 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. | April 27
Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble Concert, Duncan Recital Hall 5 - 6 p.m. |
| April 24
7th Annual College of Business golf outing, Eagle Trace Golf Course 11:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. | April 28
Band Concert, Duncan Recital Hall 8 - 9 p.m. |
| April 25
12th Annual Piano Monster Concert, Duncan Recital Hall 3 - 4 p.m. | April 29
Black Gospel Ensemble Concert, Duncan Recital Hall 8 - 9 p.m. |
| Annual Spring Gala, Adron Doran University Center 6 - 10 p.m. | |



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Softball beats Ball State, hits 30-win mark



Cody Evans / The Trail Blazer

Junior pitcher Sarah Funston shows her frustration after giving up a two-run home run in the second inning to Ball State.

CODY EVANS — SPORTS EDITOR

Morehead State softball improved to 30-14 on the year (11-7 in the OVC) with a 7-5 win Tuesday evening over nonconference foe Ball State. The victory pushed MSU's win streak to 11 games.

MSU coach Holly Bruder said the win marked a major milestone for Morehead State.

"It's huge, reaching the 30 win mark. That's a big deal to us," Bruder said. "It speaks volumes as to what we do here at MSU. This is a huge personal goal for us."

The doubleheader, played at Rowan County High School, was cut short when the second game was called for rain in the top of the fourth inning.

Bruder said the rain was no surprise.

"When you get to the end of April or early May — we knew it was going to come," Bruder said.

Junior Sarah Funston (8-4) braved the rough weather to start the opener at pitcher for the Eagles. Funston allowed six hits before leaving after the sixth inning.

The wind allowed batters from both teams to swing for the fences. Ball State's Jen Moore started things off with a two-run homer in the second inning.

MSU's Brittany Scheer brought the Eagles back into the game by scoring Kayla Brill and Bethany Ellis with a single into the outfield.

Ball State regained the lead in the final game. MSU catcher Bianca Cardenas kept the Eagles alive with a deep shot over the fence in the bottom of the fourth.

The Eagles took control in the

sixth inning, scoring four runs to put them ahead to stay.

Ball State's Kate Wilczynski hit a deep homer in the game's final frame but the effort was too late for a Cardinal rally.

Freshman pitcher Ashley Boyd took the mound to close the game for MSU, collecting her second save.

Eagle Junior Bri Jones kept the deep-hitting momentum rolling into the second game, sending what would have been her second career home run out of the park.

Jones' first-inning shot did not officially make it to record book due to the weather-related stoppage of play.

Ball State had a 5-3 upper hand prior to the intense burst of rain that forced umpires to stop the game.

Bruder said scheduling non-conference games with competitive teams late in the season helps to build the team's character down the stretch.

"If you can't just play the game, how can you get the hiccups out?" Bruder said. "Nothing is like playing a game except playing a game."

With the win in Tuesday's opener, Morehead State stands third in the OVC behind Jacksonville State (31-9, 14-1) and Eastern Illinois (24-19, 8-5).

The Lady Eagles travel today to Huntington to take on the Thundering Herd in a double-header scheduled to begin at 2 p.m.

"Marshall is going to be another tough one," Bruder said. "Marshall is kind of my nemesis here. We've played them four games, and lost all four games. It doesn't look good for recruiting."

Eagles lose heartbreaker

CLAYTON AKERS — STAFF WRITER

MSU baseball suffered a heart-breaking loss Tuesday to the Cincinnati Bearcats, who rallied with seven runs in the eighth to bring home a 10-5 victory at Marge Schott Stadium in Cincinnati, Ohio.

MSU freshman pitcher Tyler Hieneman had a terrific performance on the mound for the Eagles with five strikeouts. He gave up just two runs on three hits in five and one-third innings.

The Eagles jumped out to a 4-0 lead on strong hitting and solid pitching through four innings of play. MSU centerfielder J. D. Ashbrook was 2-of-4 and brought two Eagles around for scores during the game.

But the Eagle bullpen proved to be the difference maker, giving up eight runs on four hits and six walks in the final innings.

Down 5-1, the Bearcats made a historic rally, like the "miracle" Mets of 1966, scoring seven runs in the bottom of the eighth. Cincinnati was led by sophomore Chris Peters, who was 2-of-3 at the plate with 2 RBI for the game.

Over the weekend road trip in a three-game series against the UT Martin Skyhawks, MSU junior Drew Lee hammered five

home runs in the doubleheader on Saturday and was 2-for-5 with four runs scored on Sunday to notch the series for the Eagles, two games to one.

In the first game MSU won handily on the back of Lee in a rout to a 16-2 beating of the Skyhawks. Lee, named OVC Player of the Week, hit three home runs from the left side of the plate against Murray State pitchers.

The second leg saw the Skyhawks come out on top in a nail biting 6-5 game.

Lee kept his momentum going in the second game, hitting a 2-run shot over the wall to put the Eagles up 2-0.

In the second inning Eagle Eric Bainer matched his teammate with a 2-run shot of his own to extend MSU's lead to 4-1.

Down 5-3 in the sixth inning, Skyhawk Ty Nelson hit an RBI single to the outfield to bring a score around and pull UT Martin within one run, and added another run in the inning to tie the game at 5-5.

With the game still knotted up in the bottom seventh, UT Martin's Mark Hartsfield stepped to the plate with a teammate on first and blasted a double to the outfield to put the Skyhawks up

for good, 6-5.

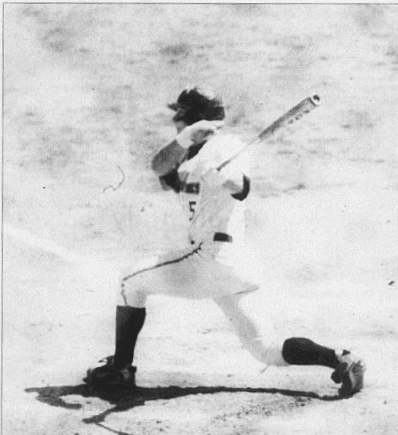
Runs weren't hard to come by in the final game of the series, totaling 27 with MSU's streaky hitting prevailing 17-10 over UT Martin.

By the seventh inning the Eagles had put the game out of reach at 15-8 and held off UT Martin in the final innings.

Morehead State currently sits fifth in the OVC with a 14-21 overall record, 7-7 in conference play.



Cody Evans / The Trail Blazer



Cody Evans / The Trail Blazer

Sophomore Daniel Pugh swings the bat for the Eagles last week against OVC rival Austin Peay.

Tennis falls in OVC first round

CLAYTON AKERS — STAFF WRITER

The MSU men's tennis team had its OVC tournament championship hopes crushed in the first round by the Murray State Racers 4-2 Friday evening at the Larry Heflin Tennis Center in Paducah. Murray State won four of the six singles matches and took two of three doubles matches.

One bright spot for the Eagles on Friday was the play of junior Greg Anderson, who defeated Murray State's Milovic in singles action 6-2, 6-2. Anderson capped off an excellent season in singles competition finish-

ing 11-4 and was named First-Team All-OVC. Freshman Jason Wolfson captured the early victory for the Eagles over Jose Berardo, 6-4, 6-3. Wolfson finished off his freshman campaign with a solid 8-8 record in singles matches.

The only victory in doubles competition was brought by the duo of freshman Jason Wolfson and junior Dusan Milovanovic, defeating Murray State's Ben Clox and Jose Berardo 8-4. The pair of Wolfson and Milovanovic ended the season tied for the team high in doubles wins with a 7-6 record.

SIDELINES

Are student-athletes really students?

KOREN ELLIS — STAFF WRITER

The NCAA has given college freshman basketball players the red carpet treatment when it comes to being student-athletes, if we can still call them students.

Each college has its own grading and academic requirement scales, but for the NCAA, college freshman need only meet three criteria. Before entering the NBA draft, players must be 19 years of age. Players must also have completed one year of college coursework before becoming draft eligible. Most people would consider both requirements reasonable.

But it is the last requirement that many

have problems with. NCAA rules say players must pass only six credit hours during their fall semester to be eligible to finish their freshman year of play, at the end of which they can enter the draft. Many players get just two classes under their belt and call it quits for the rest of the year.

When college teams get closer to making it to the final four, the chances of getting picked up by the NBA are usually very high, so students are focusing more time on passing the ball and not passing their classes.

In effect, colleges are giving scholarship money to student-athletes who are not required to learn much of anything except how to focus on practice and hone their

skills for professional play.

These players are playing the sport they love and getting school paid for with no real classroom responsibilities.

This problem could easily be solved. Students wishing to play professional basketball should be required to complete two years of college education before entering the NBA draft. This way, the pressure on athletes to succeed in both academics and sports would be legitimate. In turn we could restore some real meaning to the label "student-athlete."

With the rules as they are, who can blame these all-star players for dismissing the books in favor of a ball.

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Gjevre a driving force for MSU

CLAYTON AKERS — STAFF WRITER

When some people here the number 13 they think of bad luck, but that's not the case when the number is attached to MSU's pitcher Alex Gjevre, who has made the number 13 lucky for himself and her team.

"The number 13, I like. People think it's an unlucky number, but it's done good for me so I'm going to stick with it," she says smiling.

Each time the 2008 OVC Pitcher of the Year has been on the mound this season she's been everything but unlucky. Time and time again a school record has been within her reach, and many of those records have fallen.

Gjevre has garnered many honors in three years on the mound for the Blue and Gold—most career wins, with 52 and counting—and most wins in a season at 21 and counting. She holds the second and third place record spots for wins.

This season she passed Kari Quinn's career strikeouts record of 356, and has been named OVC Pitcher of the Week four times. This past weekend she became the first MSU pitcher to win a 3-game series.



Cody Evans / The Trail Blazer
Junior pitcher Alex Gjevre.

"Every time I hear that I'm breaking something or winning something I can't even believe it," Gjevre says. "I remember looking at the program for this year and I was like 'oh my gosh I've done all that.'"

Gjevre wants her play on the mound to set an example for future Lady Eagles.

"I hope I'm setting a good tone for younger players to come, who will probably do better than me here in, like, 10 years," Gjevre says.

Before her outstanding career with the Eagles, Gjevre traveled down a long road to reach her dream.

The Billings, Mont., native says her softball career began at the age of 5, swinging a bat in a T-ball league.

"My parents used to come watch me," Gjevre says. "I'd hit the ball and keep running around because I knew the other kids couldn't throw me out. I'd get home runs all the time."

While growing up in Montana, she says she used to tell everyone she wanted to play Division I softball.

"It's always been a dream of mine to play Division I," she says with a smile. Gjevre says her mom and coaches back home would tell her she wasn't good enough to play Division I because no one makes it very far in Montana.

As Gjevre got older she never gave up on her dream and began looking at colleges.

"I started looking at schools and Morehead was one that contacted me back," she says. "I liked the school, the biology program, and the coaches."

Head Coach Holly Bruder is in her second season with Gjevre and the Lady Eagles.

Bruder said the one thing that stood out about Gjevre was the work ethic she brings to practice.

"Alex is a hard worker and raw," Bruder said. "What I mean by raw is she is willing to put in the time and work hard during every practice."

Gjevre says coaching may be in the future for her.

"I have the dream of becoming a coach because, as a player, maybe I can't make it as far as I would want to," she says. "As a

coach, I could accomplish some of those dreams — maybe lead another Division I team to a championship."

She says Bruder has had an impact her both on and off the softball field.

"She (Bruder) says she's not a 'mental coach' but at the same time she is because she always keeps my mind focused on what I need to do," Gjevre says.

"She's a good role model who's done a ton of stuff in her career and I really look up to her."

Gjevre says her family has been very supportive of her in everything she does.

She says her mom has always been there and calls her after every game.

"She's the one who has something in my room," she says. "I look up to her like crazy. She's one of the old-school pitchers."

Along with the support of her family Gjevre says legendary softball pitcher Lisa Fernandez also influenced her to play softball.

"I actually have her autograph in my room," she says. "I look up to her like crazy. She's one of the old-school pitchers."

Though it has been a season of dominating performances for Gjevre, she has put on the Lady Eagles had a rough start to the season. On April 4 the team lost the first game of a double-header to Tennessee Tech 4-0 and fell to 19-14 overall and 3-7 in the OVC. Standing in seventh place, MSU's OVC tournament chances were slim.

Since that game, Morehead State has reeled off 11 straight victories and jumped to third in the OVC standings.

"Going into the Tennessee Tech weekend, we came into that series knowing what we needed to do," Gjevre said. "Basically, knowing if we don't do something now it's going to be too late. After we won that series we caught fire. Once you win, you don't want to lose."

"We just have good momentum right now — good energy," she says. "I think it's going to be hard to stop us at this point because we enjoy winning so much."

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